nock, he determined to strike the latter before the two principal Federal armies could unite. Foiled at first by Pope's retreat from the Rapidan and then by a storm, when about to cross the Rappahannock at the White Sulphur Springs, he conceived the bold plan which Jackson carried out, of seizing Manassas in Pope's rear. Lee thus effected his object, which was not, as is too often supposed, a mere raid on Pope's supplies and lines of communication. Had this been all, the advantage would hardly have compensated for the risk. The purpose of the movement was much wider. After forcing Pope from the Rappahannock, and disconcerting and distressing him by the destruction of his supplies, it was the object of the Confederate leader to give him battle. The skill and nerve with which Jackson managed Pope until Lee came up, will constitute one of the strong grounds on which his military reputation will rest. This feat of Jackson's must rank with his bold push between McDowell and Fremont at Strasburg, and with his final achievement against Hooker at Chancellorsville. There was no bolder or more successful strategy in the war.

That Jackson ran great risk is true, but we think that this view of the case has been exaggerated. Lee felt no apprehension about the fate of his lieutenant. Jackson was enveloped by a splendid body of cavalry, which completely screened his own movements, while they revealed to him all those of his adversary. Pope's cavalry was not efficient. These facts gave Jackson an immense advantage, and rendered the "bagging" operation which Pope proposed practically out of the question. There was no time when Jackson could not have retreated towards Aldie, for instance; no time when, with his quickness, he could not have eluded Pope's converging columns, even had these columns been directed with far more wisdom than was the case.

Two Thousand Miles through the Heart of Mexico. By Rev. J. Hendrickson McCarty, D.D., Phillips & Hunt. 1886. Pp. 288.

A BOOK destined not to fill a void, but to push its way into a plenum, ought to be one of positive merit. When it is remembered that no less than twenty-five volumes of Mexican travels and description have appeared in English since 1880, it will be conceded that a new work of the same class can have reason for being only by virtue of opening fresh fields, or of greatly improved handling of familiar matter. Dr. McCarty's book, unfortunately, does neither. If it stands

out at all from the mass of kindred writing, it is solely in consequence of unusual inaccuracy, padding to the point of bursting, and a style whose dulness would be insupportable were it not for the relief it affords, after the author's occasional disheartening attempts at wit. There should be some means of persuading ordinary tourists in Mexico, over the ordinary routes, that the world will willingly allow them to preserve their notes of travel unpublished. A good way would be to have placed in the hands of every traveller, as he crosses the river at El Paso or Laredo, Anderson's bibliography of recent works on Mexico, or Bancroft's list, ninety pages long, of authorities on Mexican history. This ought to deter all but writers conscious of genius from attempts to tell the old tales over again. Even in Mexico, however, comparatively virgin soil remains. The wilds of Sonora have been little explored and less written about; interior Yucatan has seen few successors of Stephens; Guerrero, Tabasco, and Chiapas are States practically unvisited. It is a pity that Dr. McCarty did not go to some of these places. By not doing so he missed his only chance of writing an interesting book on Mexico.

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BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

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Butterworth, H. Zigzag Journeys in the Sunny South.
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